Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

Casualty

Assistance

Calls

Officer

Training

Who can be a CACO?

Any SNCO, Warrant Officer or Commissioned Officer can be a CACO.

Topics of Discussion

- References
- Casualty Terms and Definitions
- Notification Procedures
- PCR
- Benefits
- Recent Changes

References

- MCO P3040.4D* w/ Ch 1
  - Marine Corps Casualty Procedures Manual
  - Revision out soon
- HQMC Casualty Section, CMC(MRC)
  - (703) 784-9512 DSN 278-9512
  - 1(800)847-1597
  - Fax (703) 784-9823/9827
- CACO Coordinator-Station Adjutant (MCAS Personnel)
- Finance Section, CPAC

Casualty Defined

Any Marine who is lost to the organization having been declared deceased, DUSTWUN, missing, ill or injured.

Casualty Type

- Hostile-Results from hostile action or terrorist activity
- Nonhostile-Results due to circumstances not directly related to hostile action or terrorist activity.

Casualty Status

- Deceased
- Very Seriously Ill or Injured (VSI)
- Seriously Ill or Injured (SI)
- Incapacitating Illness or Injury (III)
- Not Seriously Injured (Used only in mass casualties)
- Special Patient (SPECPAT)
- Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN)
- Missing

Casualty Status Defined

- Deceased
  - Applies to a person who known to have died, determined to have died based upon conclusive evidence, or declared to be dead based on a presumptive finding of death.

Casualty Status Defined

VSI-Life is in imminent danger.

SI-Cause for concern, but no imminent danger to life.

NSI-Person can communicate with NOK, not VSI or SI. Used only in mass casualty situations.

SPECPAT-Not otherwise reportable but involves serious injury, terminal disease, attempted suicide, verified suicide gesture.

DUSTWUN

A transitory casualty status used when the responsible commander suspects a Marine may be a casualty, absence is involuntary, but sufficient evidence does not exist to make a definite determination of missing or deceased.

Missing

This status is applicable to a Marine who is not present at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons and whose location may or may not be known

Excludes AWOL and Deserter

Hostile Casualty Category

- Killed in Action (KIA)
- Died of Wounds Received in Action (DWRIA)
- Wounded in Action (WIA)
- DUSTWUN

Reportable Vs. Non Reportable

- A casualty is not reportable if the Marine is ill or injured but can still communicate with the PNOK.
- No PCR is submitted in this case.

When will notification be made by MCAS?

- Normal peacetime
- Hostilities

What if NOK outside the area?

- Call CACO Coordinator.
- Follow procedures in the CACO binder.
- HQMC directs MCD or closest unit to make notification

CACO Responsibilities

- Notification of NOK
- Represent CMC with NOK of ill, injured, missing or deceased Marines.
- Serve as liaison between NOK and various agencies of HQMC.
- Provide assistance for
  - Funeral arrangements
  - Benefit claims
  - Transportation arrangements
  - Coordination of movement of HHG/personal effects of casualty

CACO Responsibilities

- Complete Casualty Assistance Calls Report contained in CACPAC
- Follow checklist procedures contained in the MARCORCASPROCMAN for the various casualty types.
- Be attentive and understanding
- Provide accurate and timely casualty information to the Station Adjutant

General Notification Procedures

- First, OOD calls CMC (MRC), even if limited info.
- OOD/AOOD gets SRB/OQR from CPAC duty
  - Used to determine the PNOK for notification
  - Also used to help make determination of benefits
- OOD calls Station Adjutant, then Duty CACO
- For all reportable casualties, always notify the PNOK, SNOK and parents in person, if the casualty's NOK is in the area (from the RED)
- Notification made from 0500-2400. Within 12 hours of receiving information.

General Notification, Contd…

- Notification concerning suicide attempts, as verified by medical authority, will be made by the Marine, if the Marine wishes. If not, CACO does it, only if directed by CMC (MRC).
- Uniform for notifications is Service Alphas
- Prepare a calling card with your name, work and home telephone numbers for NOK.

General Notification, Contd…

- Attempt to find out if PNOK does not speak English.
- Never make notification alone. Bring a Chaplain, Medical person or another Marine with you.
- Ask to come in, do not tell PNOK on the porch.
- Ensure you are speaking with the correct person.

General Notification, Contd…

- Stay with the PNOK until another family member or friend is there for support
- Try not to leave PNOK alone, unless PNOK is absolutely insistent
- Request an appointment to discuss further topics at a later date. Do not overwhelm PNOK with details up front.

Special Notification Case

- VSI-Imminent Death expected
  - Greater benefit may be obtained for the NOK if Marine is medically retired before Marine dies.
  - Immediately call CMC(MRC) for procedures
  - This is the only case in which notification may be made by telephone, in order that the NOK may make it to the Marines bedside before the Marine dies.

Next of Kin (NOK)

- Person most closely related to the casualty is the Primary Next Of Kin (PNOK)
  - Notification
  - Condolence
  - Disposition of remains
  - Personal effects
  - Release of records to secondary NOK and third parties

Order of PNOK

- Unremarried surviving spouse
- Natural and adopted children in order of seniority
- Parents in order of seniority
- Blood or adoptive relative granted legal custody of the Marine
- Brothers or sisters in order of seniority
- Grandparents in order of seniority

Personnel Casualty Report (PCR)

- Station Adjutant will do PCR for all H&HS personnel who become casualties while at Yuma based on information provided by OOD
  - Notification of PNOK outside of area will be effected by this information
  - PCR must be submitted ASAP
- Throughout the process, the CACO must keep the Adjutant informed for record keeping and supplemental PCR purposes: KEEP NOTES!!!!!

Benefits

- Death Gratuity
  - $6,000 paid within 2 working days to meet immediate living expenses
  - Paid to:
    - Surviving Spouse
    - Children in equal shares, regardless of age
    - Relative designated on the RED
    - Undesignated Parents in equal shares
    - Undesignated Brothers/Sisters in equal shares

Benefits

- Arrears of Pay
  - Unpaid compensation due the Marine at the time of death.
  - Paid to beneficiary on most recent ***SIGNED*** RED
  - Form for Arrears of Pay comes in the CACPAC
- SGLI
  - Form is in CACPAC
  - Make liaison with CMC(MRC) not SGLI office.

Benefits

- Burial Allowance
  - Preparation and encasement
    - At no cost, if done by military facility
    - If PNOK does not elect government prep, reimbursement is limited to $1,750
    - If PNOK does not elect government prep, obtain a signed statement to that effect.
  - Internment
    - Max $3,100 if interned in a private cemetery
    - Max $2,000 if interned in a national cemetery

Benefits

- Shipment of remains
  - The government will pay to ship remains via most direct route to destination of internment
- Headstone
  - DoVA will provide a headstone, see CACPAC

- Invitational Travel Orders-see MARCORPROCMAN
  - Death-ITO for spouse and children to attend burial service
  - SI,VSI-ITO for 2 family members

Benefits

- Transportation of dependents and HHG
  - To home of record or other location approved by CMC(LFT-2)
- Government Quarters
  - Dependents in Gov’t quarters are authorized to remain for 90 days after death of Marine
- BAH
  - Dependents authorized 180 days of BAH if not in

    gov’t quarters

Benefits

- SBP
  - If Marine had 20 years of service or
  - If Marine medically retired before death
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation
  - Determination of eligibility made by DoVA
  - Amount dependant on number of dependents. Over $900/mo for spouse alone, more for children.
- Social Security Benefits
  - One time $255 lump sum
  - See CACPAC

Benefits

- Taxes
  - Most death benefits are non taxable
  - Exception is the last $1,000 of death gratuity
- Employment preference and educational benefits

Changes to Wartime Notifications

- Casualties after we cross LOD:
  - Station does notifications until Station is overwhelmed
  - I MEF sends out roster of available CACOs from tenant units to use after Station is overwhelmed
  - Requires close coordination between tenant units and station
  - MAWTS-1 cannot be tasked by MEF, still coordination can make process less painful
- CMC “owns” CACO after assignment

Summary

- Rely on the references. Follow the checklists. Read and understand the order ***before*** it is needed.
- Call CMC(MRC) in any case not cover by the order. Use the Station Adjutant for help, as well.
- CACO becomes your primary duty for the duration of the responsibility
- Remember that your duty honors your fallen fellow Marine